(e) the extent to which the waiting lists are likely to be cleared?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The department has not worked out any five point strategy for expansion of telecom, network, however, approved Eighth Five Year Plan proposals (1992—97) envisage:—

— Addition of 75 lakh new telephone lines.

— Addition of 31200 telex lines.

— Provision of Gram Panchayat telephone to all Gram Panchayat villages by 1-4-1995.

— Public call offices for every 100 households in urban areas.

— Highway telephone on national highways.

— Provision of STD to all exchanges by 1-4-97.

— Value-added services like Cellular mobile, Voice-mail, Audio-conferencing & Video-conferencing to be provided mainly on the basis of franchise, subject to availability of resources.

(c) The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 25137 crores for telecom sector including telecom services.

(d) The Eighth Plan proposals envisage Addition of 75 lakh new telephone connections.

(e) Targets set in this regard are:

— Provision of telephone connection practically on demand in rural and tribal areas.

— Waiting period for telephone connections not to exceed two years for larger telephone systems.

Poor functioning of Telecom Centre at Abohar

4230. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Centre at Abohar is working very badly due to very old Telex machine whereas even Private Telex Machines had been changed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no FAX facility is being provided to this centre in spite of Abohar being a big trade and News Centre; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps are being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. It is working satisfactorily. However electromechanical telex machine in Telecom Centre at Abohar shall be changed soon by electronic machine.

(b) and (c) Case for providing FAX facility in Telecom Centre at Abohar is already under process.

एटा में खराब टेलीफोन सेवा

4231. **श्रीमती सत्या बहिन:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एटा जिले में टेलीफोन सेवाओं के खराब होने का मुख्य कारण वहां के दूरभाष केन्द्र में बहुत पुरानी मशीनें होना है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि एटा में लगायी गयी पुरानी मशीनें मोदी नगर में अस्वीकृत कर दी गई थीं और यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) एटा एक्सचेंज में पुरानी मशीनें लगाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि मोदी नगर में लगायी गई मशीनों को वास्तव में

एटा एक्सचेंज के लिये मंगाया गया था और मोदी नगर के औद्योगिक घराने ने अपने प्रभाव से उन्हें एटा पहुंचने नहीं दिया और उन्हें मोदी नगर में ही लगवा लिया गया था ?

संचार मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री पी०वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) पुरानी प्रौद्योगिकी (स्ट्रोजर एम०ए०एक्स०-II) के प्रयोग के कारण टेलीफोन सेवा कुछ सीमा तक प्रभावित हुई थी ।

(ख) और (ग) जी नहीं । एटा में संस्थापित किया गया उपस्कर मोदी नगर से ले जाया गया था जिसे यहां सरप्लस करार किया गया था । जब यह उपस्कर (1974) संस्थापित किया गया था ; एक दम बेहतर हालत में था और इसने केवल 8 वर्ष तक ही काम किया था जबकि इसका पूर्ण कार्यकाल 20 वर्षों का था ।

(घ) जी नहीं ।

Voice Mail Service

4232. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Voice Mail Service has recently been introduced in the capital by MTNL;

(b) if so, what are the details and the salient features of the service;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce such a service in the State of Madhya Pradesh also; and

(d) if so, by when such a service is likely to be introduced in the State and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sir, The voice mail service allows message store and retrieval functions telephonically. This service is useful to telephone subscribers and non telephone subscribers and those on the move, who would like to avail it as an electronic secretary. An electronic mail box will be opened for a voice mail subscriber and any body can send messages to his mail box which can be accessed/retrieved/erased by the subscriber.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Telecom has invited proposal from registered Indian Companies to award license for operation of these service in various parts of the country. The service in envisaged to be operational within a year of award of license.

Composition of Social Audit Panel

4233. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2755 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th August, 1992 and state the composition and terms of references of the Social Audit Panel?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): Copies of the Resolutions containing composition and terms of reference of the Social Audit Panel are placed on the Table of the House.

RESOLUTION

Dated: 27th March, 1992

Subject: Constitution of a Social Audit Panel for the Ministry of Communications.

No. 2-3/92-TCO. The Ministry of Communications have constituted a Social Audit Panel as an ongoing mechanism to provide useful inputs in evaluating its social investments in providing telecom and postal facilities especially in rural and semi-urban sector. The rapid pace of growth in these services may also in its wake pose various problems vis-